

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/CONTROL

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

CD NO.

25X1A 25X1A

DATE DISTR. 12 SEP 50

NO. OF PAGES 2

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Internal Conditions in Yugoslavia

25X1A

PLACE

ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF  
INFO.

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

1. The operation of all cooperative and union stores in Ljubljana was discontinued during the month of July. The regime would now like to return private business to the individual owners but few are willing to accept the offer.
2. All the stores in Ljubljana remained open on one Sunday in late July. The banks ordered this measure because they were short of dinars to pay the employees of numerous State institutions and hoped that this step would create extra funds.
3. All district stores in Ljubljana recently were given notice to increase the price of all articles in great demand, irrespective of whether they were commodity or luxury items.
4. In June 1950, the Citizens' Union Committee of Maribor held a mass meeting in that city. The people protested so loudly against the civil leaders and the regime because of the serious food shortage that the Militia had to disband the meeting and make numerous arrests.
5. The so-called Kolmanov-grad district in Ljubljana has been completely transformed and the president of the Slovene Council, Miha Marinko, has moved into the district to live. The entire Kolmanov-grad district is surrounded by a military fortification, and an underground passage and exit leading to Rozna dolina have been built. Access to the grounds is forbidden to unauthorized persons. Workers engaged in the construction of the district were not allowed to leave the area until the work was completed.
6. In early June a fire broke out in the workers' locker rooms in the Litostroj factory in Ljubljana. Seven people were subsequently arrested on charges of sabotage. Criminal prisoners from various Yugoslav provinces are employed in the Litostroj plant.
7. From 20 July to 7 August, an exposition was held by the Slovene Republic in the Beograd district of Ljubljana. The exposition was well organized and carried articles which recalled the pre-war period. At the same time a style show was held in the Union Hotel in Ljubljana and items of luxury, such as tuxedos and evening gowns, were shown. Many of the articles were marked for export to the United States, Great Britain, Belgium, et cetera. Visitors openly criticized the regime for the opulence of the exposition while the people actually live in dire misery. Comments were heard such as: "See how rich we are! It is only our leaders who are worthless."

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Next Review Date: 2008

Document No. 025

No Change in Class. ☐

☒ Declassified

Class. Changed To: TS S C

Auth.: NR 7C-2

Date: 10/27/78 By: 008

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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8. There are signs of complete exhaustion and frustration on the faces of the Yugoslav people, and there is widespread hunger in the country. The people wait in line for hours to buy current needs. The only well-nourished people are State employees, and members of the UDB, Army, KNOJ and the Militia.
9. During August dinar prices on the local free market in Ljubljana were as follows:
 

Lard	600	per kilogram
Butter	500	per kilogram
Potatoes	30	per kilogram
Flour	140	per kilogram
Onions	65 - 70	per kilogram
Meat	150 - 200	per kilogram
Fruit	30-40-50	per kilogram
10. A member of the Yugoslav Communist Party, who served in the resistance during the war and later was an activist, stated that at the present time most Communists and former Partisans in the Beneska Slovenia area are completely disillusioned in Communism in general and in Tito in particular. They continue to be Communists either because they are forced to or because they are opportunists.
11. Most of the people, including low-level Communists, speak of fleeing to Trieste and Italy in case of a Soviet attack on Yugoslavia. However, they claim they would remain if the Allies should enter their territory.

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